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Police release CIA protesters

By MARILYN A. BATCHELOR
Journal Staff

About 10 protesters chanted songs of peace while their companions passed out leaflets near a black cardboard coffin garnered with flowers outside Barnes Hall Wednesday in a protest against CIA recruitment on the Cornell University campus.

During the daylong efforts by approximately 40 protestors, Central Intelligence Agency recruiters hosted informational meetings in Barnes Hall. Cornell Public Safety officers arrested 16 of the protesters after they refused to leave the career center.

Those arrested were detained temporarily by Ithaca city police and then released on their own recognizance.

"Our purpose here is two-fold," said Pierre Laramée, spokesman for the Nicaragua Affinity Group, which helped organize the protest. "We're here to place the CIA under citizen's arrest and present them with a statement. We're also here to make a statement to the university administration of what kind of organization this is — one that's responsible for deaths all over the world."

With white and black paint on their faces, eight protesters, some Cornell students, sat on the floor of the career office in a circle holding hands. They refused to respond to public safety officials.

Cornell Captain Daniel N. Murphy and Lieutenant Harry Cooper read a statement and arrested the protesters. They were charged with trespassing on private property and resisting arrest, a misdemeanor.

David Drinkwater, Cornell dean of students, said students and faculty members participating in the protest also would be dealt with by university administrators under the code of student conduct.

"We make agreements with the government to receive financial aid," Drinkwater said. "One of our conditions for receiving financial aid is making ourselves accessible to the federal government. So, if the government sends someone to recruit, we can't just say: 'No.'"

Joe Hadley, a first year law student from Gloucester, Mass., said he favored CIA recruitment because students should be able to speak with government officials.

Others students had the opposite opinion. "I'm against the CIA being here," said Matthew Lamstein, a first year law student from Rockville Center. "I don't think it's their place to be on this campus recruiting."